

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
ROUTING SLIP**

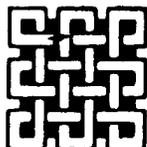
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Date

Remarks  
Please review and share with D/ALA/DI and C/LA/DO. Leave to your discretion as to whether response should be made.

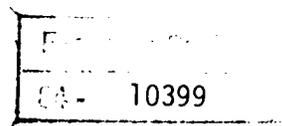
Executive Secretary  
26 December 1984  
Date

25X1



**Latin American Studies Association**

Sid Richardson Hall, Unit 1  
University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78712



December 18, 1984

Mr. William Casey, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Mr. Casey:

Enclosed is a copy of a report recently prepared by a diverse group of 15 authorities on Latin American affairs assembled by the Latin American Studies Association, the world's largest association of scholars specializing in Latin American studies, to investigate the recent electoral process in Nicaragua. This important report constitutes the only independent scholarly analysis of these elections and of the forces that affected them, including the role of the United States government. It bases its conclusions on extensive interviews as well as documentary research.

Among its principal conclusions, the report demonstrates that the elections were fair in structure and function, that the Sandinista government faced meaningful opposition, and that the Nicaraguan government's conduct of the elections demonstrates a potential for continued substantial political pluralism in the future. The report also raises serious questions about the propriety of U.S. actions and how the elections have been portrayed in the U.S. media.

The Executive Council of the Latin American Studies Association urges you to read the enclosed report. We invite your comments and observations.

Sincerely yours,

Richard N. Sinkin  
Executive Director

Enclosure

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